NEWS ANALYSIS 1-1950 DECEMBER 6, 1976
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MR. VANCE ON FOREIGN POLICY

ANNCR: CYRUS VANCE, DESIGNATED BY PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER TO BE HIS SECRETARY OF STATE, HAS INDICATED WHERE HE THINKS THE PRIORITIES OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD LIE. VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. VANCE WHICH HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE MAGAZINE NEWSWEEK:

VOICE: (OPT) ONE OF THE MORE DEBATABLE ASPECTS OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESS IS THE TWO-AND-A-HALF MONTH PERIOD BETWEEN THE TIME A NEW PRESIDENT IS ELECTED AND THE TIME HE TAKES OFFICE. IN OTHER COUNTRIES--AND, FOR THAT MATTER, IN THE UNITED STATES--IT TENDS TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF SPECULATION ABOUT POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THIS COUNTRY. IT IS NOT SURPRISING, THEN, THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS MOVED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO INDICATE THE DIRECTION OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY. MR. CARTER DID THIS IN HIS MEETING WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. AND CYRUS VANCE--THE MAN HE DESIGNATED LAST FRIDAY TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE AFTER JANUARY TWENTIETH-- HAS DONE THE SAME IN AN EXTENSIVE INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE NEWSWEEK. (END OPT)

THE FIRST THING THAT STRIKES ONE ABOUT THE INTERVIEW IS THAT IT CLEARLY INDICATES THAT THERE WILL BE NO RADICAL CHANGES IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, AND THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE IN THE MAINSTREAM OF SUCH POLICY AS FOLLOWED BY BOTH REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATIONS SINCE WORLD WAR TWO. (OPT) THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THERE WILL NOT BE CHANGES, BUT MR. VANCE DOES NOT SEEM TO ANTICIPATE ANY DRASTIC CHANGES OF COURSE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. MOST OBSERVERS, INCIDENTALLY, ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THERE WILL BE A CHANGE OF STYLE--AND HAVE GUESSED THAT, ON THE BASIS OF MR. VANCE'S RECORD, THERE WILL BE MORE

EMPHASIS ON THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LESS ON THE PERSONAL APPROACH TO DIPLOMACY. THERE MAY WELL ALSO BE A GREATER DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY TO INDIVIDUAL NEGOTIATORS. (END OPT)

ACCORDING TO THE NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW, TOP PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THE STRATEGIC ARMS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THESE NEGOTIATIONS, SAYS MR. VANCE, NEED TO BE LIFTED--TO USE HIS EXPRESSION-- "OUT OF THE DOLDRUMS." (OPT) THIS VIEW, BY THE WAY, MATCHES THAT OF MR. BREZHNEV, WHO LAST WEEK EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE ARMS TALKS COULD GET GOING AGAIN. (END OPT) MR. VANCE, HOWEVER, SEES THE ARMS NEGOTIATIONS AS HAVING AN ADDED DIMENSION: SETTING THE TONE FOR SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN GENERAL. (OPT) THOSE RELATIONS, BY THE WAY--ACCORDING TO THE NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW-- WILL INCLUDE THE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI ACCORD, SOMETHING MR. VANCE THINKS THE WESTERN SIGNATORIES HAVE BEEN TOO TIMID IN BROACHING WITH MOSCOW. (END OPT)

ANOTHER HIGH PRIORITY, MR. VANCE INDICATES, WILL BE THE MIDDLE EAST, WHERE HE SEES THE RE-OPENING OF A NEGOTIATING WINDOW. DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS MUST BE SUSTAINED, HE SAID, UNTIL--AS HE PUT IT--"WE GET THROUGH THE WINDOW," THAT IS, GET NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY

ON OTHER MATTERS: MR. VANCE ALSO WANTS TO WORK TOWARD A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PEKING--BUT WILL MOVE DELIBERATELY, MAINTAINING A CAREFUL BALANCE OF TIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND INSURING THE SECURITY OF TAIWAN. HE TAKES A CALM VIEW OF WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNISM, AND BELIEVES THAT WASHINGTON SHOULD CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE PANAMA CANAL, ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIAL AND DEVELOPING NATIONS. HE ALSO REAFFIRMS WHAT HAS BECOME ONE OF THE FOREIGN POLICY TRADEMARKS OF THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION:

THE IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONS WITH ALLIES.

SO, SIX WEEKS BEFORE ASSUMING OFFICE, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS PROVIDED AT LEAST THE GENERAL OUTLINES OF WHAT ITS FOREIGN POLICY WILL BE. CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED THAT THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE SO PREOCCUPIED WITH DOMESTIC AFFAIRS THAT IT WOULD DELAY ANY ACTION ON PRESSING INTERNATIONAL ISSUES FOR A YEAR OR MORE AFTER TAKING OFFICE. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT THIS CONCERN IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION; THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION OBVIOUSLY INTENDS TO MOVE, WITHOUT ANY UNNECESSARY DELAY, TO DEAL WITH THE MORE CRITICAL ISSUES OF FOREIGN POLICY.

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